

selves with what may be described as "freak news"; that is to say, cables and letters portraying exaggerations of conduct, of manner, of speech, lynchings, sensational crimes, etc., all calculated to create an entirely wrong impression of the people, life, and conditions in the United States.

The American Tourist

IT has always been to me a source of regret that it is impossible to transport some typical provincial town of America to the center of Europe, for the purpose of enabling the people there to become acquainted with, and in natural consequence to appreciate, the finest and most sterling side of American life and character. As it is now, most of the knowledge that Europeans possess of America and Americans is limited to the result of their observation of the American tourist and of the expatriated American. Both the one and the other are the most unfortunate types of this great nation that it is possible to conceive.

With a few exceptions, they constitute a class unlike anything that I have ever seen in the United States, and their frequently objectionable characteristics, which Europeans are accustomed to ascribe to the entire nation, are responsible for much of the prejudice that has existed abroad against Americans. Their main fault is a deplorable lack of tact. They err either on the side of too aggressive patriotism—ramming the superiority of everything in America, from its political institutions to its cookery, down the throats of each European whom they encounter—or else they are guilty of the still more reprehensible fault of sneering at everything American, of deprecating their American nationality, and of seeking to imitate the manners, the foibles, and even the vices of the Old World, in order to assimilate themselves therewith.

With but few exceptions, they fail to hit upon that happy medium, half way between too aggressive Americanism and too obsequious lack of Americanism—a happy medium which, when discovered, renders a citizen of the United States the most delightful and genial companion that it is possible to conceive to a traveled and well bred Englishman.

Of course, it is unfair for Europeans to judge Americans, as a people, by the vulgar rich, who, alas, constitute the most obtrusive class of American tourists and foreign residents. But it is only natural. The well bred American men and women pass by unobserved. *Gentilhommes and femmes du monde*—there are no English words that convey the exact meaning of these two expressions—are the same all the world over, no matter whether American or European, and their main characteristics are so similar that there is little to distinguish them from one another. It is, therefore, not the well bred but the ill bred Americans who become conspicuous, and who attract both attention and comment of a disagreeable nature.

Colossal fortunes exist in Europe as well as in the United States. But whereas the American enjoying an annual income of, say, a million to three million dollars has the entire amount free to spend as he wishes, an Englishman, a German, an Austrian, a Hungarian, or a Russian, possessed of revenues of a similar amount, has at his disposal only a very small fraction thereof, perhaps not more than ten or even five per cent. All the remainder is absorbed by yearly charges which are in the nature of moral rather than legal obligations.

How Royalty Treats Rich Americans

EUROPEAN royalty has also contributed its share to the creation of prejudice against Americans, by conceding to them all sorts of favors and privileges withheld from their own countrymen. Emperor William, for instance, in times prior to the war, was in the habit of according to Americans, such as the Vanderbilts,

the Goelets, the Armours, etc., a degree of freedom in their intercourse with him that he would never have dreamed of tolerating on the part of the oldest and most intimate of his German or Austrian friends and cronies. This was bitterly resented by the Teuton bourgeoisie, who are virtually barred from court, and who could not understand why Americans of their own class should enjoy imperial and royal favors denied to them, while even the great nobles complained that the value of their hereditary privileges was impaired by the courtesies lavished by the Kaiser upon his visitors from the New World.

Despite the severity of the censorship of the press in Germany at present, the newspapers there never lose an opportunity of calling public attention to the "sorry return" made since the beginning of the war by the Americans for all the favors with which they had been overwhelmed by Emperor William.

International Marriages

NOR can the numerous matrimonial alliances that have taken place in the last thirty or forty years between American women and foreigners of birth and rank be said to have accomplished anything toward increasing the popularity of this country on yonder side of the Atlantic. Quite the contrary is the case. For, with very rare exceptions, nearly all of these so-called international marriages have turned out unhappily, alike for the husband and for the wife, and in many cases have wound up in sensational divorce suits and in scandal. Both are to blame. The first object that the foreign husband seems to have in view, as soon as ever the marriage has been celebrated, is to alienate his American bride, as far as possible, not only from her relatives but also from her compatriots; and it is no exaggeration to assert that the place which she acquires in the confidence—aye, and even in the affection—of her husband is often proportionate to the extent with which she severs her connection with her kith and kin.

Some who have at heart domestic happiness, and who look forward to acquiring popularity and regard in the country of their adoption, yield to their husbands' wish in this particular, to an extent that only those of their former American friends who have visited Europe can form any idea of. There are many European houses where, in spite of the fact that the mistress of the establishment is an American, no American has ever been permitted to cross the threshold.

European Attitude in Our War with Spain

IF Americans entertained any illusions with regard to the favor in which they are held in Europe, these must assuredly have been dispelled in 1898, at the time of the war of this country with Spain, when the sympathies of all the continental powers of Europe were undisguisedly with Spain, and when the efforts on the part of Germany and Austria to organize in her behalf an armed coalition of the foreign powers against the United States were only frustrated by the sturdy friendship of Great Britain. The *Cologne Gazette*, the *Berlin Post*, and the conservative *Kreuz-Zeitung*, the *Norddeutsche-Allgemeine-Zeitung*, and the *Hamburg News* lost no opportunity of comparing "the brutality of Yankee diplomacy" and the American "sordid greed for dollars" with the "chivalry," the "high-flown courtesy," and the "patriotism" of Spain.

The Austrian press was still more uncomplimentary, and there are few of my readers who will not recall how the offensive and hostile attitude of the Teuton Admiral Diederich and his squadron in the Bay of Manila toward Admiral Dewey, shortly after the latter's great naval victory there, brought Germany and the United States to the very brink of war. As for the French newspapers in 1898, there was some excuse for them to champion the cause of Spain rather than that of the United States. For

almost the whole of the foreign national debt of Spain is held by French investors, who were naturally anxious for the victory of the horse that carried their money.

Prejudices Increased Since Beginning of Present War

WHATEVER prejudices existed in Europe before the beginning of the present war have vastly increased since, everywhere save in England. That they should have grown to such a startling degree in Germany, and in the countries allied to her, is not altogether surprising, since, despite the neutrality of President Wilson's administration, the bulk of popular sentiment here has been strongly in favor of Germany's foes. Still, it may be questioned whether the people of the United States were altogether prepared for such an intense degree of bitterness as has been shown in the past year by the Germans for everybody and everything American.

G. Roeder, one of the veteran members of the staff of the *New York World*, an American of German parentage, all of whose articles have been characterized by a very natural preference for the people of the land of his origin in the present conflict, declares in print, as the result of extensive tours of observation in Germany in the last few months, that the hatred of Americans entertained by the Germans is quite as intense as that manifested for the English, while, in comparison thereto, Teuton sentiment toward the Russians, the French, the Belgians, and the Japanese is quite friendly.

In an article printed in the *New York World* for January 16, 1916, Mr. Roeder writes that everywhere in Germany he heard the same remark: "Wir hassen die Amerikaner und alles was aus Amerika kommt." (We hate the Americans and everything that comes from America). He states that the people there not only refuse to permit English to be spoken, but are still more insistent that one should not speak "American." He also cites such expressions of popular opinion as "All Americans are murderers: they ought to be hanged." And he places on record the manner in which the American Ambassador Gerard, while occupying a box in a Berlin theater, was subjected to insult and to hostile demonstration.

Why the Germans Detest Us

OF course, much of this detestation by the Germans for everything American is due to their knowledge that Great Britain and her allies have purchased immense quantities of ammunition and other war supplies in the United States, and to the conviction, quite universal in Germany, that without these American-made munitions the Allies would long ere this have been compelled to throw up the sponge. In the most unreasoning manner the Germans complain that the United States has supplied war materials exclusively to the Powers of the Entente, blind to the fact that, if there had been any means of getting through the British blockade of the North Sea, manufacturers here would have been just as ready to ship munitions to Germany.

But what has perhaps hit the Germans even still harder has been the horror manifested here for the "frightfulness" of the methods of Teuton warfare in Belgium, in the eastern provinces of France, in the western provinces of Russia, in Galicia, and in Serbia: the wanton destruction of civilian life and private property; and the vandalistic wrecking of some of the grandest cathedrals, celebrated edifices, and historic monuments, spared by all the previous wars of the past thousand years, and dear to every American art lover and traveler. The Germans, for some reason or other, seem to have labored under the impression that in the present war they were assured of the good will and sympathy of the American people; and their disappointment and surprise has been so bitter that it has taken the form of fierce hatred.

With regard to Belgium, while her people are deeply

touched by the generous efforts made by private American enterprise to relieve their sufferings, they feel that these sufferings might have been averted had the United States government raised its voice in timely protest against Germany's violation of the neutrality of their kingdom.

In France, the gratitude that would otherwise be felt for all that private American enterprise is so generously accomplishing there for the relief of the wounded, and of the other victims of the war, is tempered by the resentment caused by the extravagant, not to say extortionate, profits exacted by the American vendors of war supplies. As admitted in print by the latest issue of "Greater New York," the bulletin of the New York Merchants' Association, there have been numerous instances of American firms contracting to furnish France with goods at a certain price, and then either abandoning the contract in favor of newer and better orders, or declining to fulfil it except at an increase of twenty or thirty per cent. in the cost. These cases, which have been thoroughly ventilated in the French press, have created a very widespread impression to the effect that Americans, in the sale of war supplies and even of other goods, are exploiting the sufferings and perils of their old-time ally for selfish monetary gain.

Then, too, France has always felt that she has a strong claim on the support of the United States government, in view of the fact that she financed the American War of Independence with money which has never been repaid. That President Wilson and his administration should have remained silent in the face of Germany's violation of Belgian neutrality, a violation that enabled the Kaiser to invade French territory at a relatively unprotected point, has been a great disappointment in France.

Russia, in the American war of the rebellion, gave a striking and very important manifestation of her friendship for the United States by sending her fleet to New York at a critical moment. American popularity in Russia, however, underwent a very severe strain when President Taft broke off treaty relations with the Czar's government, as the climax of the controversy over Muscovite passport regulations. Moreover, the scanty confidence manifested here by financiers, merchants, and manufacturers in Russia's financial credit and general economic and political stability, has been very humiliating to her.

Americans' Popularity Increasing in Great Britain

THE only nation with which Americans are more popular to-day than at the beginning of the war is Great Britain. Perhaps because Britons are somewhat less ignorant of life and conditions over here than are the other nations of Europe, they can make allowances for the difficulties by which President Wilson and his administration are confronted in the great conflagration now in progress. While they would have liked him to act with a greater degree of vigor at the time of the German violation of the neutrality of Belgium, they would not wish him actively to espouse their cause in the struggle by joining the Powers of the Entente, realizing that the United States is of far greater use, both politically and economically, to the British cause as a friendly neutral.

The English are not disposed to haggle over prices for war supplies. And they are keenly alive to the sympathy that has fallen to their share on the part of the great mass of the American people ever since the beginning of the struggle. This sympathy has served to cement a friendship based on ties of blood and tradition as well as on a community of language, literature, and law, a friendship that may prove of even still greater value than in the past to the United States, when, on the restoration of peace, the Great Republic finds itself confronted by increased prejudice on the part of all other nations now engaged in war.

